

engaged by a moveable pawl 27 affixed to cover 16 by screw 28 which is stepped to allow the pawl to freely rotate.

At the other end of shaft 18, a rod holder 30 is securely mounted. By contouring the holder in with a curved rod receiving channel 31, most conventional fishing rod can be received therein and secured thereto by any number of conventional means such as velcro straps.

In operation the apparatus would be mounted whereby the rod is at about a 45 degree angle with the horizontal. The rod is then rotated to a horizontal position which tightens the spring 19 and the rod remains in the horizontal position by virtue of the pawl engaging the ratchet. To ensure this movement and provide stop means, cover 15 is provided with a forty five degree depression 33 which is engaged by a screw 34 affixed to shaft 18.

When a fish bites the bait on the hook and provides tension to the line, the rod is rotated enough to cause the pawl 27 to release the spring loaded shaft 18 quickly moving the rod forty five degrees which seats the hook in the fish and signals the fisherman that a bite has occurred.

Claims:

1 A fishing apparatus comprising a housing having a shaft rotatably mounted therein with at least one end of said shaft comprising mounting means for a fishing rod, spring means whereby the rotation of said shaft tightens said spring, latching means whereby said shaft can be maintained in a spring loaded condition first position and will rapidly move to a second unloaded position upon the release of said latching means.

2. The apparatus set forth in claim 1 wherein the movement between said first position

and said second position is about forty five degrees.

3. The apparatus set forth in claim 2 wherein said latching means will release the spring loaded shaft upon a slight movement and tension applied to said shaft.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said housing is provided with means to mount the housing to a fixed surface including railings, sand and ice.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said spring means comprise a coiled spring having straight tabs at each end.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 further including stop means to ensure the forty five degree movement.